

MAY 30 2002



## UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY AND DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**MAILED**

MAY 30 2002  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
TC 3600

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Burns, Doane, Swecker, & Mathis, LLP  
P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404

Paper No. 4

In re application of : **DECISION ON PETITION**  
John K. Donovan : **TO MAKE SPECIAL**  
Application No. 10/055,998 : **(COUNTERING TERRORISM)**  
Filed: January 28, 2002  
For: **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR COUNTERING  
TERRORISM AND MONITORING VISITORS  
FROM ABROAD**

This is in response to the petition filed on January 28, 2002 to make the above-identified application special on the basis of special examining procedure for certain new applications – inventions for countering terrorism as set forth in MPEP § 708.02 XI.

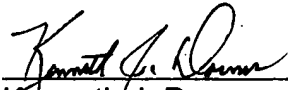
The Patent and Trademark Office will accord "special" status to patent applications relating to counter-terrorism inventions. The types of technology for countering terrorism could include, but are not limited to systems for detecting/identifying explosives, aircraft sensors/security systems, and vehicular barricades/disabling systems. Petitioner states that applicant's invention provides techniques which can be implemented to monitor visitors and identify visa overstays. These methods and systems also provide intelligence dispersal techniques for identifying and thwarting potential terrorists. This invention is therefore seen to be the type of technology described above.

Since all of the requirements for special status under MPEP § 708.02 XI have been met, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications, (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn, and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference or appeal, if any, only if petitioner makes a prompt ***bona fide*** effort, in response to each Office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.

**SUMMARY:** Petition to Make Special **GRANTED**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth J. Dorner", is written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth J. Dorner  
Special Programs Examiner  
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kjd: 5/29/02